

08-1-00
OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP
Attorneys at Law
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-8403

(212) 382-0700

Telex
23 6925

Facsimile
(212) 382-0888

Cable
Ostrofaber New York

Express Mail #EL583739820US

Asst. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

OFGS File No. : P/289-157
Inventor : Kazuhito TAKAI
Title : COMMUNICATION SYSTEM USING DIGITAL WATERMARK FOR
SYNCHRONISING MULTIPLEXED TEXT DATA TO VIDEO FRAMES
Assignee : NEC Corporation

Enclosed herewith please find the following documents in the above-identified application for United States Letters Patent:

14 Pages of Specification including Abstract and Claims
19 Numbered Claims Calculated as 19 Claims for Fee Purposes
5 Sheets of Drawing Containing Figures 1 to 7.
X Declaration and Power of Attorney
X Priority is Claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119:
Convention Date July 30, 1999 for Japan Appln. S.N. 11-216410
 Certified Priority Application
 Verified Statement Claiming Small Entity Status under 37 C.F.R. §1.27.
X Assignment
X Return-Addressed Post Card

OFGS Check No. 95958, which includes the fee of \$730.00, calculated as follows:

Basic Filing Fee:	\$ 690.00
Additional Filing Fees:	
Total Number of Claims in Excess of 20, times \$18:	
Number of Independent Claims in Excess of 3, times \$78:	
One or More Multiple Dependent Claims: Total \$260.	
Total Filing Fees or	690.00
Total Filing Fee Reduced 50% for Small Entity:	
Assignment Recording Fee: \$40	40.00
TOTAL Filing Fee and Assignment Recording Fee:	<u>\$ 730.00</u>

In the event the actual fee is greater than the payment submitted or is inadvertently not enclosed, or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this case is not paid, the Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge the underpayment to Deposit Account No. 15-0700.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

Respectfully submitted,

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail Post Office to Addressee (mail label #EL583739820US) in an envelope addressed to: Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on July 31, 2000:

Dorothy Jenkins

Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

Dorothy Jenkins

Signature
July 31, 2000

Date of Signature

Steven I. Weisburd
Steven I. Weisburd
Registration No.: 27,409
OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-8403
Telephone: (212) 382-0700

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

**Communication System Using Digital Watermark for Synchronising
Multiplexed Text Data to Video Frames**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates generally to video communication systems and more specifically to a copy-protect video communication system. The present invention is particularly useful for standard digital television broadcasting.

Description of the Related Art

For standard digital television broadcasting, it is contemplated to multiplex text data with a video signal using vertical blanking intervals. For this purpose, a number of text data are multiplexed in a video program and each text data stream is associated with a particular series of video frames, or "events" so that each text appears on the screen of television receivers simultaneously with the associated event. In order for television receivers to synchronise a text data stream with the associated event, it is necessary for the broadcasting station to transmit timing information along with a video signal, as disclosed in Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application 11-27641. However, the use of timing information represents a waste of resource of the video frequency spectrum.

On the other hand, digital (or electronic) watermark is currently receiving attention because of its ability to detect illegal duplication of video programs and a number of techniques have been developed for

NE-1011

- 2 -

- 1 hiding (embedding) identifying information into programs to be copy-
2 protected.

3 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

4 It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a system
5 and method for synchronising text data streams to "events" of digital
6 video stream without using timing information.

7 The stated object is obtained by embedding a digital watermark in
8 the transmitted video stream and detecting the digital watermark in the
9 received video stream and using it as a timing signal for synchronising a
10 text data stream to associated video frames.

11 According to one aspect of the present invention, there is provided
12 a digital video communication system comprising, at a source site, an
13 embedding circuit for embedding a digital watermark in a digital video
14 stream to produce a watermarked digital video stream, and a multiplexer
15 for multiplexing a text data stream with the watermarked digital video
16 stream to produce a multiplexed signal. At a sink site, the system
17 includes a demultiplexer for demultiplexing the multiplexed signal for
18 recovering a watermarked digital video stream and a text data stream. A
19 digital watermark detector is provided for detecting the digital
20 watermark embedded in the recovered digital video stream. A
21 synchroniser responds to the detected digital watermark for
22 synchronising the recovered text data stream to the recovered video
23 stream.

24 According to a second aspect, the present invention provides a
25 digital video communication method comprising the steps of embedding

1 a digital watermark in a digital video stream to produce a watermarked
2 digital video stream, multiplexing a text data stream with the
3 watermarked digital video stream to produce a multiplexed signal,
4 demultiplexing the multiplexed signal for recovering a watermarked
5 digital video stream and a text data stream, detecting the digital
6 watermark embedded in the recovered digital video stream and using the
7 detected digital watermark as a timing signal for reading the text data
8 from said storage medium, and synchronising the recovered text data
9 stream with the recovered digital video stream in response to the detected
10 digital watermark.

11 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

12 The present invention will be described in further detail with
13 reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

14 Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a digital video communication system
15 according to the present invention;

16 Fig. 2 is a timing diagram of a video stream along with text data
17 which occur at such timing that write and read operations can be
18 performed in an alternate fashion;

19 Fig. 3 is a timing diagram of a video stream along with text data
20 which occur at such timing that write and read operations are performed
21 simultaneously by using a dual-mode memory;

22 Fig. 4 is a block diagram of a first modified embodiment of the
23 present invention;

24 Fig. 5 is a block diagram of a second modified embodiment of the
25 present invention;

1 Fig. 6 is a timing diagram of a video stream along with text data
2 which occur at such timing that write and read operations are performed
3 simultaneously for different text data by using switched memories; and

4 Fig. 7 is a block diagram of a third modified embodiment of the
5 present invention associated with Fig. 6.

6 DETAILED DESCRIPTION

7 In Fig. 1, a video communication system according to one
8 embodiment of the present invention is comprised by a transmitter 10
9 which transmits a composite digital video signal through a noisy
10 environment such as a cable or a wireless transmission system (including
11 satellite and terrestrial broadcasting) or a storage system such as video
12 cassette recorder 20 to a receiver 30.

13 At the transmitter 10, a digital audio stream is processed by an
14 audio compression circuit 11 and a textual data stream is processed by a
15 data compression circuit 12. A digital video stream is combined with a
16 watermark signal in an embedding circuit 13 so that the watermark is
17 embedded in a series of video images. A suitable method for the digital
18 watermark is described in Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application 10-
19 155151. The output of embedding circuit 13 is processed by a video
20 compression circuit 14 using a known compression technique such as
21 MPEG-2 to produce an MPEG-2 transport video stream.

22 The outputs of the audio and data compression circuits 11 and 12
23 are multiplexed with the MPEG-2 transport video stream by a
24 multiplexer 15 to produce a composite video signal by inserting the
25 textual data into the vertical blanking intervals of the video format and

1 the audio signal into the low frequency region of the spectrum of the
2 composite video signal.

3 The output of multiplexer 15 is encrypted by an encryption circuit,
4 or encryptor 16. A forward error correction (FEC) encoder 17 is provided
5 for converting the output of the encryptor 16 into a format that allows
6 errors in the transmitted signal to be detected and corrected at the
7 intended receive site. The output of the FEC encoder 17 is converted by
8 an interface 18 to a radio frequency signal and transmitted to the receiver
9 30 if the intermediate system 20 is a transmission system. If the system 20
10 is a storage system, the output of the FEC encoder 17 is directly supplied
11 to the storage system and stored in a suitable storage medium.

12 The signal from the transmitter 10 is received by an interface 31 at
13 the receiver 30 to produce a replica of the output signal of the FEC
14 encoder 17. If the intermediate system 20 is a wireless link, the received
15 signal is down-converted by the interface 31 to the baseband signal and if
16 it is a storage system the stored signal is a baseband signal.

17 The received baseband signal is applied to an FEC decoder 32
18 where errors, if present in the received signal, are detected and corrected.
19 The error-corrected signal is decrypted by a decryptor 33 and fed to a
20 demultiplexer 34 to decompose the decrypted signal into the compressed
21 audio, data and MPEG-2 transport video components, which are
22 expanded to the original format by respective expansion circuits 35, 36
23 and 37.

24 The text data recovered by data expansion circuit 36 is supplied to
25 a memory or synchroniser 37 and the MPEG-2 transport video stream

1 recovered by the video expansion circuit 38 is supplied to a watermark
2 detector 39 to detect the watermark embedded in the video stream in a
3 manner as disclosed in the aforesaid Japanese laid-open patent
4 application.

5 The detected watermark signal is used by the memory 37 as a read
6 timing signal for reading the stored text data so that it is synchronised to
7 a series of desired video frames. The detected watermark is also supplied
8 to a copy protect circuit 40 to produce a copy management signal that is
9 used to protect video programs from being illegally copied by
10 unauthorised users. The copy management signal is embedded in the
11 video stream from video expansion circuit 38 as a digital watermark by
12 an embedding circuit 41 to protect a series of video frames from
13 unauthorised duplications.

14 The text data from the memory 37 and the output of embedding
15 circuit 41 are supplied to a video display system 42.

16 An example video stream is shown in Fig. 2 in which multiplexed
17 text data 1 and 2 occur at such timing that the memory 37 can operate
18 alternately in a write mode and a read mode. Two watermark signals are
19 shown embedded in a video stream for synchronising text data 1 to a
20 series of video frames 1 to 4 (event 1), and synchronising text data 2 to a
21 series of video frames 5 to 8 (event 2). When the video stream is
22 displayed on the display system 42, the event-1 video frames 1 to 4 will be
23 overlaid with text data 1 and the event-2 video frames 5 to 8 will be
24 overlaid with text data 2.

25 Preferably, the memory 37 is of a dual-mode type in which it

1 operates simultaneously in write and read modes. As shown in Fig. 3,
2 this mode of operation is useful when a read operation of text data 1 and
3 2 is started while they are still written into the memory.

4 In a modified embodiment shown in Fig. 4, a video overlay unit 43
5 is provided between the video expansion circuit 38 and the watermark
6 embedding circuit 41. Video overlay unit 43 receives the output of
7 memory 37 to superimpose the text data on video frames specified by the
8 detected digital watermark.

9 In a further modified embodiment shown in Fig. 5, the copy
10 protect circuit 40 is replaced with a watermark converter 44 in which the
11 watermark signal detected by the watermark detector 39 is altered into a
12 form that can be detected as a copy management signal to protect
13 specified video frames from being illegally copied by unauthorised users.
14 The output of watermark converter 44 is combined with the output of
15 video overlay unit 43 in the embedding circuit 41.

16 If text data 1 and 2 occur in sequence but the read timing of text
17 data 1 coincides with the write timing of text data 2 as shown in Fig. 6, a
18 modification of Fig. 7 is useful. In this modification, two graphic
19 memories 61 and 62 are provided and a write control switch 63 is
20 connected between the output of data expansion circuit 36 and the
21 memories 61, 62 and a read control switch 64 is connected between the
22 memories 61, 62 and the video overlay circuit 43. Memory control
23 switches 63 and 64 are controlled by the output of the watermark detector
24 39 so that when one of the memories 61, 62 is in a write mode the other
25 memory is in a read mode.

NE-1011

- 8 -

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A digital video communication system comprising:
2 at a source site,
3 an embedding circuit for embedding a digital watermark in a
4 digital video stream to produce a watermarked digital video stream; and
5 a multiplexer for multiplexing a text data stream with the
6 watermarked digital video stream to produce a multiplexed signal,
7 at a sink site,
8 a demultiplexer for demultiplexing the multiplexed signal for
9 recovering said watermarked digital video stream and said text data
10 stream;
11 a digital watermark detector for detecting the digital watermark
12 embedded in the recovered digital video stream; and
13 a synchroniser for synchronising the recovered text data stream to
14 the recovered digital video stream in response to the detection of said
15 digital watermark.
- 1 2. The digital video communication system of claim 1, further
2 comprising a digital overlay circuit for superimposing the synchronised
3 text data stream with the recovered digital video stream.
- 1 3. The digital video communication system of claim 1,
2 wherein said synchroniser comprises a memory.
- 1 4. The digital video communication system of claim 1,
2 wherein said synchroniser comprises a dual-mode memory.

1 5. The digital video communication system of claim 1,
2 wherein said synchroniser comprises a pair of first and second memories
3 and a control circuit for alternately operating the first and second
4 memories in write and read modes in response to the detected digital
5 watermark.

1 6 The digital video communication system of claim 5, further
2 comprising a digital overlay circuit for superimposing the text data
3 stream read out of each of said first and second memories with the
4 recovered digital video stream.

1 7. The digital video communication system of claim 1, further
2 comprising at said sink site:
3 a copy protect circuit responsive to the detected digital watermark
4 for producing a copy management signal; and
5 an embedding circuit for embedding the copy management signal
6 in the recovered digital video stream as a second digital watermark for
7 preventing illegal duplication of the digital video stream.

1 8. The digital video communication system of claim 1, further
2 comprising at said sink site:
3 means for converting the detected digital watermark to a second
4 digital watermark; and
5 an embedding circuit for embedding the second digital watermark
6 in the recovered digital video stream.

1 9. The digital video communication system of claim 1, further

NE-1011

- 10 -

2 comprising at said source site:

3 a video compression circuit for compressing the watermarked
4 digital video stream to supply an MPEG-2 transport stream to said
5 multiplexer;

6 an encryption circuit for encrypting the multiplexed signal; and

7 a forward error correction (FEC) encoder for encoding the
8 encrypted signal,

9 at said sink site,

10 an FEC decoder for decoding the encoded signal to recover an
11 encrypted signal;

12 a decryption circuit for decrypting the encrypted signal to recover
13 a multiplexed signal of said MPEG-2 transport stream and said text data
14 stream and supplying the multiplexed signal to said demultiplexer,
15 whereby the MPEG-2 transport stream and said text data stream are
16 individually recovered by said demultiplexer; and

17 a video expansion circuit for expanding the MPEG-2 transport
18 stream recovered by said demultiplexer to supply a signal corresponding
19 to said watermarked digital video stream to said watermark detector.

1 10. A digital video communication method comprising the
2 steps of:

3 a) embedding a digital watermark in a digital video stream to
4 produce a watermarked digital video stream;

5 b) multiplexing a text data stream with the watermarked
6 digital video stream to produce a multiplexed signal;

7 c) demultiplexing the multiplexed signal for recovering a

NE-1011

- 11 -

- 8 watermarked digital video stream and a text data stream;
- 9 d) detecting the digital watermark embedded in the recovered
- 10 digital video stream and using the detected digital watermark as a timing
- 11 signal for reading the text data from said storage medium; and
- 12 e) synchronising the recovered text data stream with the
- 13 recovered digital video stream in response to the detected digital
- 14 watermark.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the step (e) comprises

2 storing the recovered text data stream in a memory and reading the

3 stored text data stream from the memory in response to the detected

4 digital watermark.

1 12. A digital television receiver for receiving a digital video

2 signal in which a digital video stream and a text data stream are

3 multiplexed and the digital video stream is watermarked by a digital

4 watermark signal associated with the text data stream, comprising:

5 a demultiplexer for demultiplexing the digital video signal for

6 recovering the watermarked digital video stream and the text data

7 stream;

8 a digital watermark detector for detecting the digital watermark in

9 the recovered digital video stream; and

10 a synchroniser for synchronising the recovered text data stream to

11 the recovered digital video stream in response to the detection of said

12 digital watermark.

NE-1011

- 12 -

1 13. The digital television receiver of claim 12, further
2 comprising a digital overlay circuit for superimposing the synchronised
3 text data stream with the recovered digital video stream.

1 14. The digital television receiver of claim 12, wherein said
2 synchroniser comprises a memory.

1 15. The digital television receiver of claim 12, wherein said
2 synchroniser comprises a dual-mode memory.

1 16. The digital television receiver of claim 12, wherein said
2 synchroniser comprises a pair of first and second memories and a control
3 circuit for alternately operating the first and second memories in write
4 and read modes in response to the detected digital watermark.

1 17. The digital television receiver of claim 16, further
2 comprising a digital overlay circuit for superimposing the text data
3 stream read out of each of said first and second memories with the
4 recovered digital video stream.

1 18. The digital television receiver of claim 12, further
2 comprising:
3 a copy protect circuit responsive to the detected digital watermark
4 for producing a copy management signal; and
5 an embedding circuit for embedding the copy management signal
6 in the recovered digital video stream as a second digital watermark for
7 preventing illegal duplication of the digital video stream.

- 1 19. The digital video communication system of claim 12,
- 2 further comprising:
- 3 means for converting the detected digital watermark to a second
- 4 digital watermark; and
- 5 an embedding circuit for embedding the second digital watermark
- 6 in the recovered digital video stream.

NE-1011

- 14 -

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1 A digital video communication system includes, at a source site, an
2 embedding circuit for embedding a digital watermark in a digital video
3 stream to produce a watermarked digital video stream, and a multiplexer
4 for multiplexing a text data stream with the watermarked digital video
5 stream to produce a multiplexed signal. At a sink site, the system
6 includes a demultiplexer for demultiplexing the multiplexed signal for
7 recovering a watermarked digital video stream and a text data stream. A
8 digital watermark detector is provided for detecting the digital
9 watermark embedded in the recovered digital video stream. A
10 synchroniser responds to the detected digital watermark for
11 synchronising the recovered text data stream to the recovered video
12 stream.

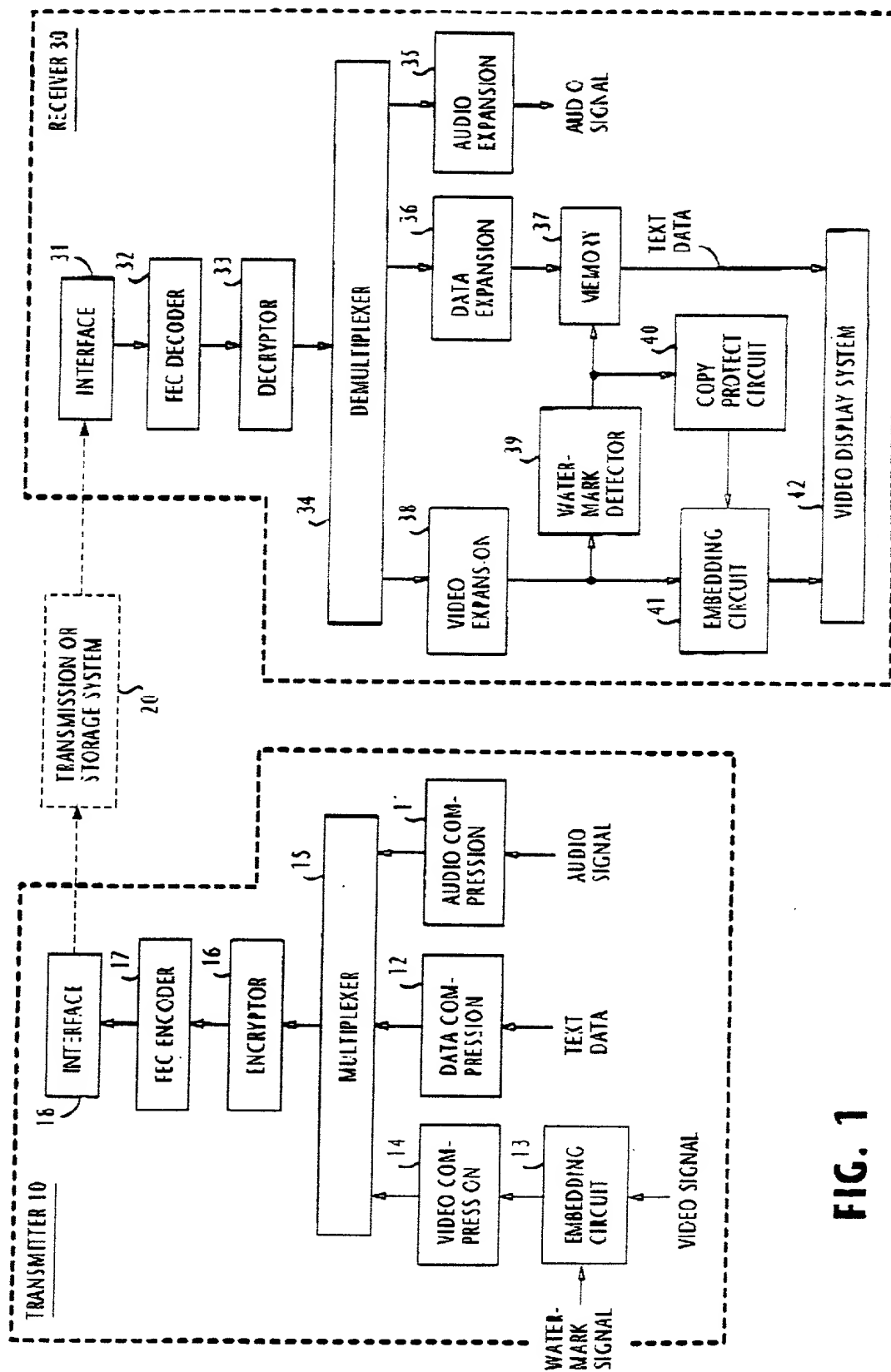


FIG. 1

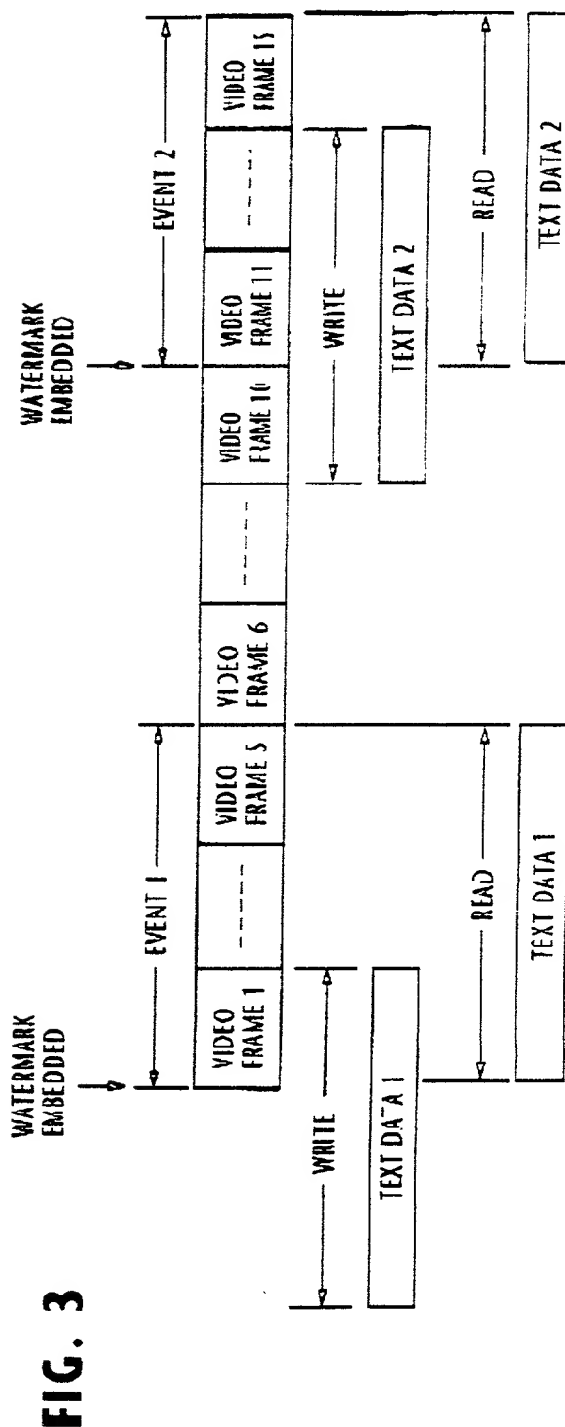
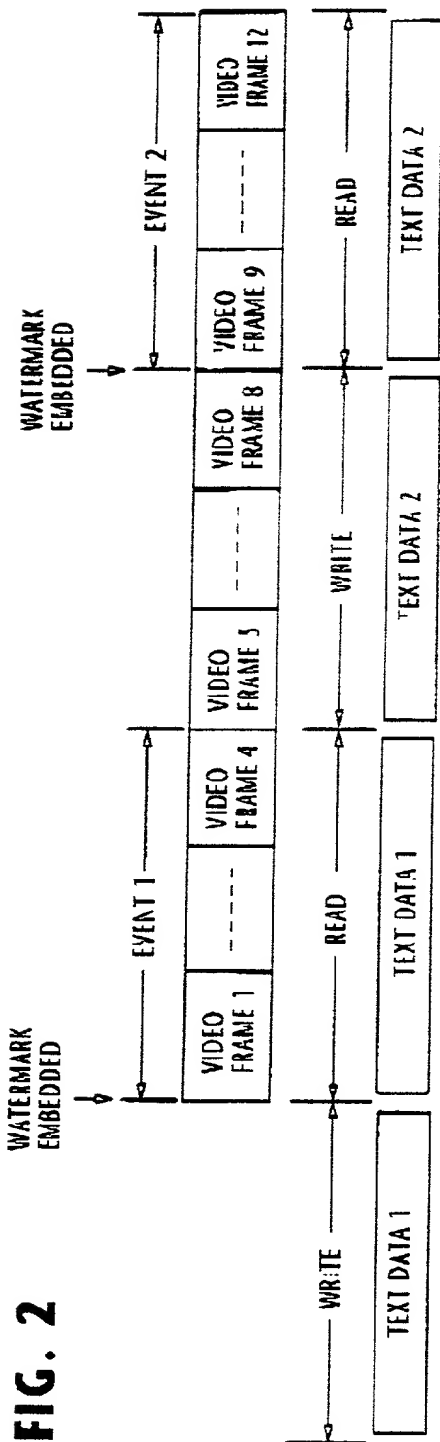


FIG. 4

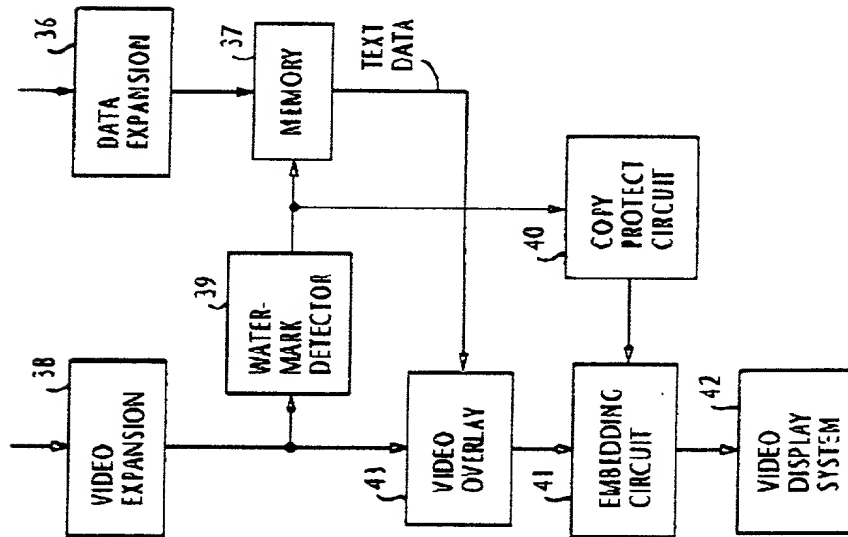


FIG. 5

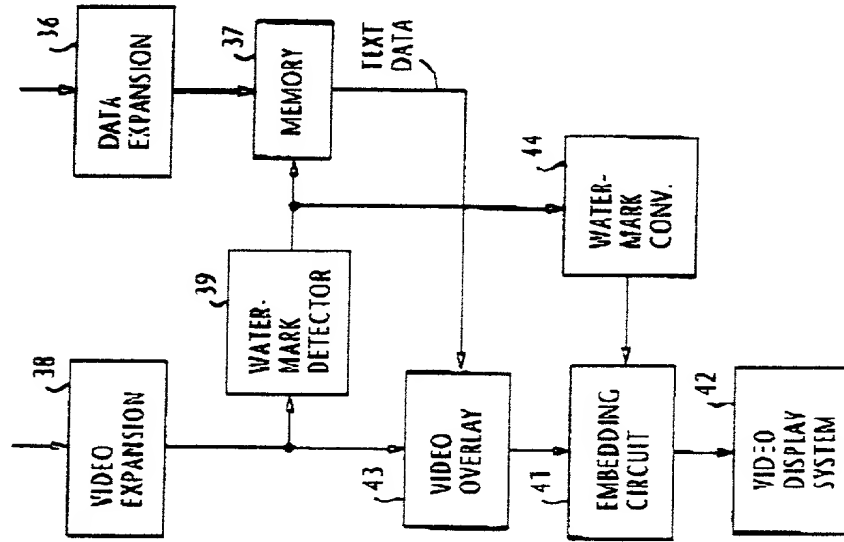


FIG. 6

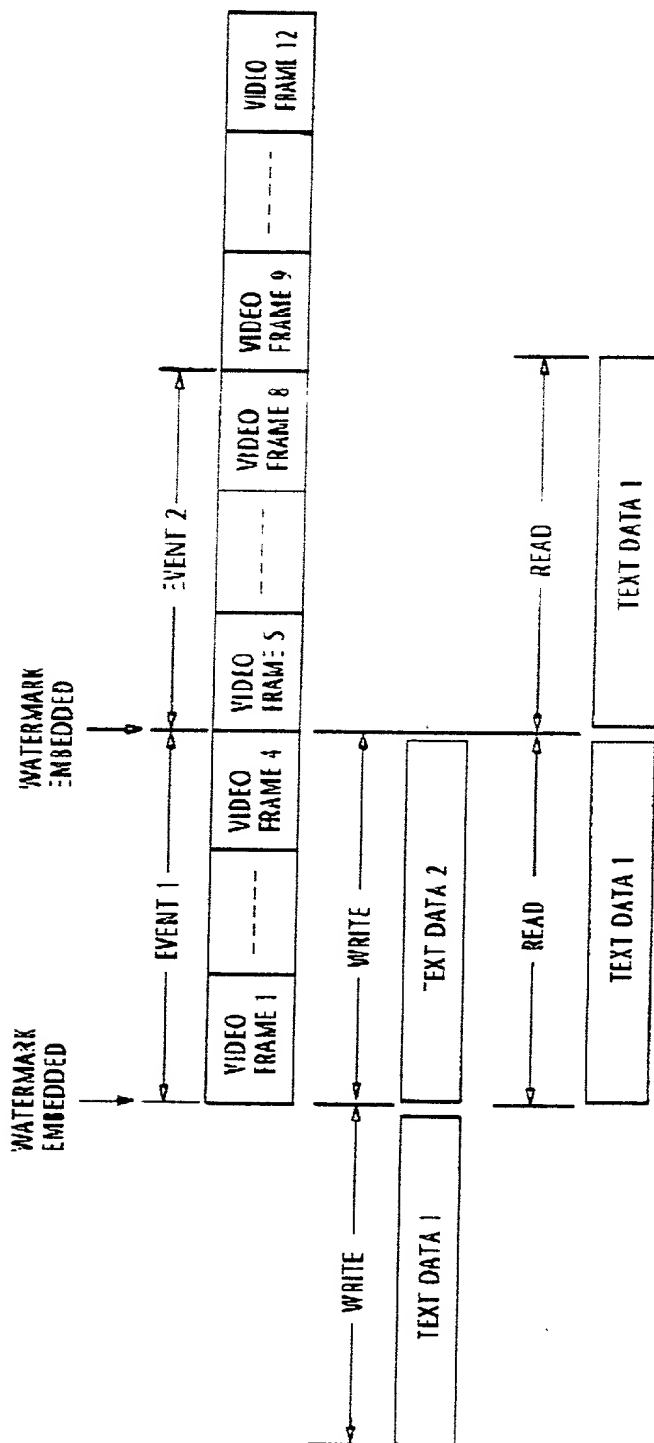
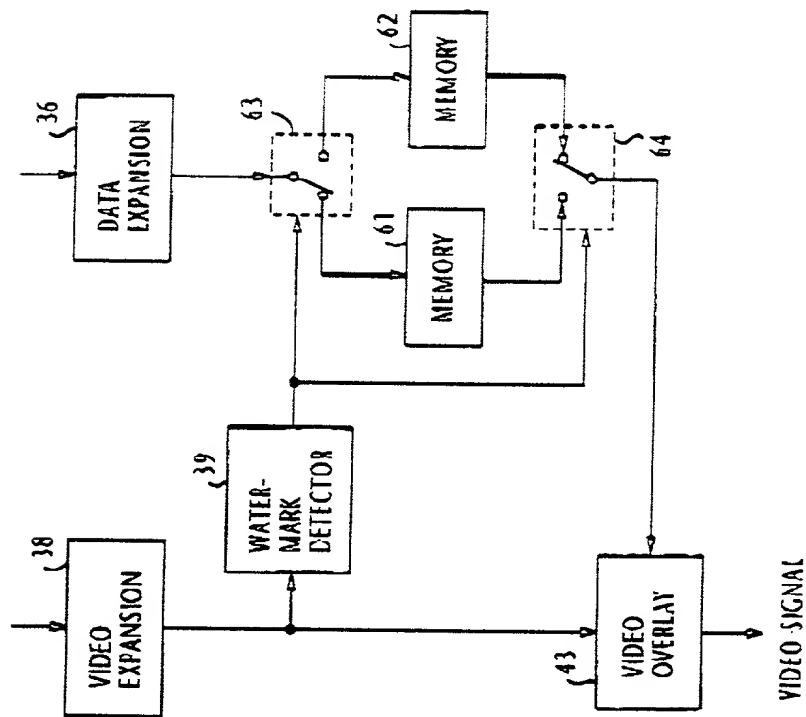


FIG. 7



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OFFICE FILE NO. **P/289-157**

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**COMMUNICATION SYSTEM USING DIGITAL WATERMARK FOR SYNCHRONISING
MULTIPLYED TEXT DATA TO VIDEO FRAMES**

the specification of which is attached hereto, unless the following box is checked:

☐ was filed on _____ as United States patent Application Number or PCT International patent application number _____ and was amended on _____ (if any).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or United States provisional application(s) listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119
Japan	11-216410	30, 07, 1999	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
			YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

UNITED STATES APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	STATUS (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint customer no. 2352 OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP, and the members of the firm, Samuel H. Weiner - Reg. No. 18,510; Jerome M. Berliner - Reg. No. 18,533; Robert C. Faber - Reg. No. 24,322; Edward A. Meilman - Reg. No. 34,735; Stanley H. Lieberstein - Reg. No. 32,400; Steven I. Weisburg - Reg. No. 27,409; Max Moskowitz - Reg. No. 30,576; Stephen A. Soffen - Reg. No. 21,062; James A. Finder - Reg. No. 30,173; William O. Gray, III - Reg. No. 30,944; Louis C. Dujmich - Reg. No. 30,625 and Douglas A. Miro - Reg. No. 21,543, as attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation to prosecute this application, to transact all business in the Patent & Trademark Office connected therewith and to receive all correspondence:

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP
 1180 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS
 NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10036-8403
 CUSTOMER NO. 2352

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:
 (212) 382-0700

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

FULL NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR Kazuhiro TAKAI	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE <i>Kazuhiro Takai</i>	DATE July 27, 2000
RESIDENCE (City and either State or Foreign Country) Tokyo, Japan		COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP Japan
POST OFFICE ADDRESS c/o NEC Corporation, 7-1, Shiba 5-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan		
FULL NAME OF SECOND JOINT INVENTOR (IF ANY)	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE (City and either State or Foreign Country)		COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
POST OFFICE ADDRESS		
FULL NAME OF THIRD JOINT INVENTOR (IF ANY)	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE (City and either State or Foreign Country)		COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
POST OFFICE ADDRESS		

☐ CONTINUED ON PAGE 2